



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

The 8th annual Wreath Laying Ceremony will be held on Monday, December 8, 2014, at 11:00 am at the Flaming Fountain Veterans Memorial at the State Capitol in Pierre.

This event is held in conjunction with the Wreaths Across America Project where a wreath is placed at each headstone of our Nation's fallen heroes held that same week at Arlington National Cemetery.

Remember. Honor. Teach.



heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms. - See more at:

<http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/about/#sthash.FEcydwFy.dpuf>

The mission for Wreaths Across America is to, Remember, Honor, and Teach. Their mission is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies a specified Saturday in December at Arlington, as well as veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. They use this opportunity to spread the message about the importance of remembering our fallen he-

Inside this issue:

VABHHCS Open Houses to Provide EIS Status Update	2
Veterans Wish List	3
Upcoming Events	4

Heroes Among Us—showcasing 125 South Dakota veterans.



PUBLIC INVITED TO VABHHCS STATUS UPDATE OPEN HOUSES

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will host six open houses for an update on the environmental impact statement (EIS) process regarding the reconfiguration of the VA Black Hills Health Care System. This series of open houses is the second of three planned public events.

The EIS will evaluate a range of alternatives, including no action, for realigning services and resources to provide high-quality, safe, accessible, and cost-effective care closer to where veterans live. The open houses will provide handouts and poster displays on the EIS process, schedule, and alternatives. Updated information will be included regarding consultation required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act on potential effects to historic resources, which is integrated into this EIS process. No public testimony will be recorded at these informal events.

Monday, November 17 (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

Best Western Ramkota Hotel/Conference Center, Lincoln Room 2111 N. LaCrosse Street
Rapid City

Tuesday, November 18 (4:30 – 6:30 p.m.)

Mueller Civic Center - 801 S. 6th Street
Hot Springs

Wednesday, November 19 (1:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

Billy Mills Hall - U.S. 18
Pine Ridge

Wednesday, November 19 (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

American Legion Hall - 123 Bordeaux Street
Chadron, NE

Thursday, November 20 (1:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

Newberry's - 502 Box Butte Ave.
Alliance, NE

Thursday, November 20 (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

John N. Harms Advanced Technology Center - 2620 College Park
Scottsbluff, NE

A blue rectangular poster with a white border. The text "Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)" is written in bold, white, sans-serif font, centered on the poster.

**Environmental
Impact
Statement (EIS)**

Copies of the open house poster displays and handouts will be available by November 17, 2014, at www.blackhills.va.gov/vablackhillsfuture/. Questions can be directed to VABHHCS by email to vablackhillsfuture@va.gov or by mail to Staff Assistant to the Director, VA Black Hills Health Care System, 113 Comanche Road, Fort Meade, SD 57741.

The next public event will be conducted in the spring of 2015; more specific information will be available at a later date.

VETERANS CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

2014 Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home Wish List for Veterans



Bird feed	Microwave popcorn
New fishing poles	UNO cards
Chinese checkers	First aid kits for outings
Stationary	Envelopes
Stamps	Diabetic socks
Men's underwear/shorts	Men's t-shirts
Men's socks	
Diabetic candy	
Nightstand alarm clocks with a large face	
Small items that are suitable to use for bingo prizes	
New Velcro shoes – men's sizes	
32" flat screen TV's	
Small vinyl recliners – not cloth	
Shotgun shells for trap shooting	

The holidays are fast approaching, and many of you will be visiting the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home to share this season with our veterans. We appreciate your continued support of the Home and our residents and are grateful for all that you do.

Many of you have called asking for gift ideas. The list above is a list of some of the items that are needed. As always, if you have any questions, please give Randall Meyers a call (605-745-5127 Ext. 220).

Thank You
FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP, GOOD WILL AND LOYALTY

Upcoming Events

2014

Nov. 14-16 Yellow Ribbon Post Deployment Event for the 1742nd Transportation Co.—Sioux Falls
Nov. 14—SFVAHCS Veteran Town Hall Meeting—SFVAMC 4th Floor Auditorium 5:00 pm
Nov. 20—Veterans Council Legislative Roundtable—Watertown—10:00 am
Nov. 21—Veterans Council Legislative Roundtable—Sioux Falls—12:00 noon
Nov. 22—Veterans Council Legislative Roundtable—Rapid City—10:00 am
Nov. 23—The Mitchell 40&8 Turkey Bingo — American Legion Post 18 (107 N. Main) 5:00 pm
Dec. 2—SDSU Veterans Combat Support Group—SDSU Student Union 065—6:00 pm
Dec. 2—Governor's Budget Address—Pierre—1:00 pm
Dec. 8—Wreath Laying Ceremony—Flaming Fountain—Veterans Memorial—State Capitol—11:00 am
Dec. 9—SDDVA Mini Conference—Rapid City— Building 450—Camp Rapid (2823 W. Main)—10:00 am
Dec. 10—SDDVA Mini Conference—Pierre Post 8 American Legion (520 S. Pierre Street)—10:00 am
Dec. 11—SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings City/County Building (520 3rd St—Suite 300) - 10:00 am

2015

Jan. 5—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
Jan. 13—Governor's State of the State Address—Pierre—1:00 pm
Jan. 29—SDDVA/Veterans Council Legislative Breakfast
Feb. 2—VFW Legislative Reception—AmericInn—Fort Pierre
Feb. 3—American Legion Legislative Reception—Post 8 Legion Cabin—Pierre
Feb. 6-8—American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Watertown
Apr. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
Jul. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
Oct. 9—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am



A big shout out to all service members, veterans, veterans service organizations, county and tribal veterans service officers, schools, community leaders and all that assisted in honoring our veterans this week!!!!

Great Job!!!!

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer
South Dakota Department of the Military <http://military.sd.gov>
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>
Soldiers and Sailors Building
425 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-8242
E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us

